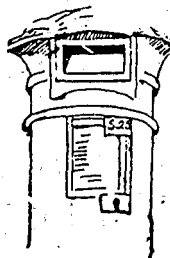


Letters to the Editor.



Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in any way hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—Many thanks for cheque, value 5s., which was forwarded to me for competition prize.

Yours sincerely,

EMILY MARSHALL.

Margate.

RECIPROCAL TRAINING.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—I am very pleased to learn from last week's Journal that the training of nurses in fever hospitals is to be taken into account when they enter St. Bartholomew's Hospital for their general course. Surely the experience gained in the modern up-to-date hospital of the Metropolitan Asylums Board has its definite value, and a nurse who has gained the certificate of the Board is in a very different position from the raw probationer, who does not know the difference between one appliance and another. I earnestly hope that now the first step has been taken it will become the rule for our general hospitals to offer special facilities to nurses with a fever hospital certificate.

It requires a good deal of courage, and I may add humility, for a nurse who has already spent two years in a special hospital, and been entrusted with responsible duties to begin all over again as a new probationer in a general hospital. It makes things much easier if the authorities of that hospital recognise that her previous training entitles her to some privileges. I think the same should apply to training in other special hospitals, such as gynaecological hospitals, where the probationers often get a very thorough drilling.

Yours faithfully,

FEVER HOSPITAL TRAINED NURSE.

MIDWIVES AND THE NATIONAL INSURANCE BILL.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—It is a great relief to me to see that the position of midwives under the National Insurance Bill is being discussed. Working midwives have little time to take action about such things, however closely they may touch them. They are far too busy in trying to solve the problem of making ends meet. I have no hesitation in saying that if this Bill passes in its present form, the problem will be one which is quite insoluble, and we may as well take down our door plates and look for other work.

I am,

Dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

ANIMALS IN MINES.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

SIR,—With regard to the proposal to empower the Inspectors of the R.S.P.C.A. with the duty of inspecting pit horses and ponies, may I point out that these officials, of whom there are none too many, have quite enough to do at present above ground, without adding to their responsibilities by undertaking the inspection of 3,000 coal mines.

The R.S.P.C.A. certainly would not be able to carry out such work efficiently without a largely increased staff of inspectors, and a corresponding increase in their subscriptions. What we want are definite Government rules, under which the hours of work of all animals employed in mines can be regulated, which will enforce the registration of every animal on descending the shaft, and which will secure for each animal proper tending with regard to food and water, and a periodic examination by a qualified veterinary surgeon vested with plenary powers.

Yours faithfully,

JOSEPH COLLINSON.

Wolsingham, Co. Durham.

Comments and Replies.

An Enquirer.—At one time it was usual for stout to be ordered for nursing mothers, but the practice has largely fallen into disuse, and the importance of a nutritious diet is increasingly insisted on. The mother had far better take cocoa or gruel than stout, which is mainly a stimulant, while the former have definite food values. Stout may increase the flow of milk, but it has no effect in improving the quality. Stimulants taken by the mother act indirectly upon the infant, and nerve stimulants, among which alcoholic fluids must be classed, have a prejudicial effect upon a child's sensitive nervous system.

Notices.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS FOR JULY.

July 1st.—Mention some abnormal appearances of stools, and the probable causes of the condition.

July 8th.—What special virtue has normal salt solution that it is so universally used for intravenous infusion, and some varieties of enemata?

July 15th.—What are some of the complications to be watched for during pregnancy, and their causes?

July 22nd.—From what source is blood renewed after hæmorrhage?

July 29th.—How would you prepare a patient for paracentesis? What instruments and utensils are needed?

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

On and after July 1st the address of the business offices of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING will be 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Will our readers kindly note this change of address, and that business communications should no longer be directed to 11, Adam Street, Strand, after that date.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)